Photo History

From December 2025

(Volume 202)

Cover Picture

Wonderful carving in Groveland's Park

As one gets older (82nd birthday very soon) one takes stock of one's life and looks back at what the years have given us , and more importantly, what one has given to life around us.

I am the first to acknowledge how important family are and Lynn and I are blessed with such a great family. When I think of this it is always with a feeling of love and enjoying fun with all of them There are no sour faces, no miserable members, no 'having to make allowances'...in fact..they are all more than we deserve. I do hope when they look back at these volumes, they will see memories that have been completely forgotten, but smiles always seem to shine out from all the photos. A sense of humour is so important.. Anyway, enough of that.

I have just bought a box of photo papers ..1000 in all and realistically I very much doubt if I will be using them all. I am not being morbid. ..just realistic. If I can carry on with my Photo History, will I be able to see the photos, will I be still able to write coherently...and if so, will I be able to punch the holes in the pages, assemble the sheets and then put them onto the spiral binder??? I do hope so , but if not..it's been great doing these for so many years.

The world round us is changing so speedily and I challenge anyone of any age to look back at their lives and say differently. I guess every generation feels that the current generation does not appreciate the things that they did as youngsters. For example, things were very different when I was young..not long after the war and rationing was just ending, but I still had (and still have) my ration book. There was, for obvious reasons, no 'throw-away, society. Everything was too scare. If we were lucky enough to get presents, the string was carefully unknotted and saved, as was the wrapping paper. Just yesterday I was talking to a contemporary and we remembered sticking paper chains together at school for Xmas decorations. A post-box in each classroom for cards from other forms was constantly being filled as children rushed from class to class. Amazingly this was pre-internet. On a Wednesday night we sat in the lounge listening to Journey into Space and I still remember the tingle of fear when it came on as we listened avidly. We watched The Quatermass Experiment in 1953 which everyone seemed to watch and with a small 9" tv (in more affluent families) with a one channel (BBC) which was only broadcasting for limited hours and a daily test card appeared for us to adjust the picture. Dad moved the portable aerial round to get the best reception. We had a dog , Rex, whose main attributes seemed to be fighting with every other dog, be generally unpleasant and farting for Briain. Later dogs that Lynn and I had were vast improvements, but it was a pretty low bar.

I didn't intend to make this intro 'looking back'...but it's what us old folk seem to excel at. I often say.."I cant remember so and so ..but I have had such a long life that my brain has far more to search through".

I have often mentioned that many young folk (and also some 'not so young') are obsessed with their phones and again this is a relatively new phenomenon. It is an obsession and I am also guilty of checking my phone while watching tv (much to Lynn's annoyance). Yesterday Australia banned Tic Toc for use below a certain age as it allegedly was not controlling content available to youngsters. A brave move but I am sure youngsters will speedily find ways to circumnavigate this ban.

Our problem here is gaining momentum, namely drug county lines with youngsters 'employed' to distribute drugs and the spin off is violence on a scale we are not used to. Kids in their teens being killed and stories of raids securing vast quantities of cash and drugs. This is not just a UK problem. Yesterday I heard an exposure that Marselle in the South of France was experiencing automatic guns being fired into the streets from high rise apartments killing rival gangs 'on their turf' The shift of vast numbers of populations from countries experiencing wars and famine puts enormous pressures on the incoming counties and obviously this fuels hatred and prejudice that is exploited by devious politicians.

I have said before that I feel water (or the lack of it) will be the main future driving force for wars and population movement and anyone blind enough to discount climate change is really not in the real world. I am not totally convinced by the arguments that CO2 being introduced into the atmosphere is the sole cause but combine this with deforestation, increase of pollution of plastic into the oceans and man's disregard for the environment is ignored by the biggest polluters.

There are a lot of clear thinkers regarding the way the world is heading but Lynn and I don't include our politicians in this number. The trouble is that when we see a politician that seems to 'speak our language' digging deeper often seems to uncover a hidden agenda, so we shy away from following any party.

However...on a happier less gloomy note, Lynn and are enjoying time at home, seem to have loads of get-togethers with friends, swim and run daily., enjoy getting the garden straight and having a really great retirement together.

December 2025

Photo History

I have included many 'tree-planting' photos but possibly an instruction manual for the uninitiated might be appreciated

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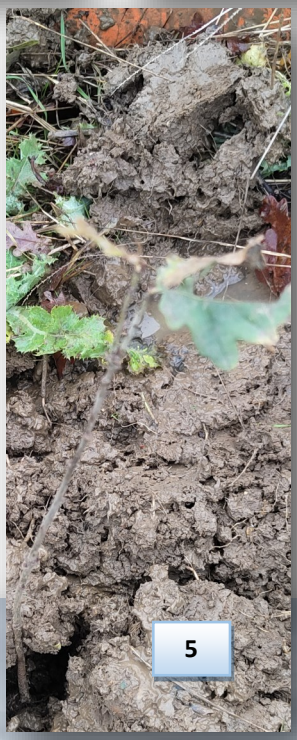
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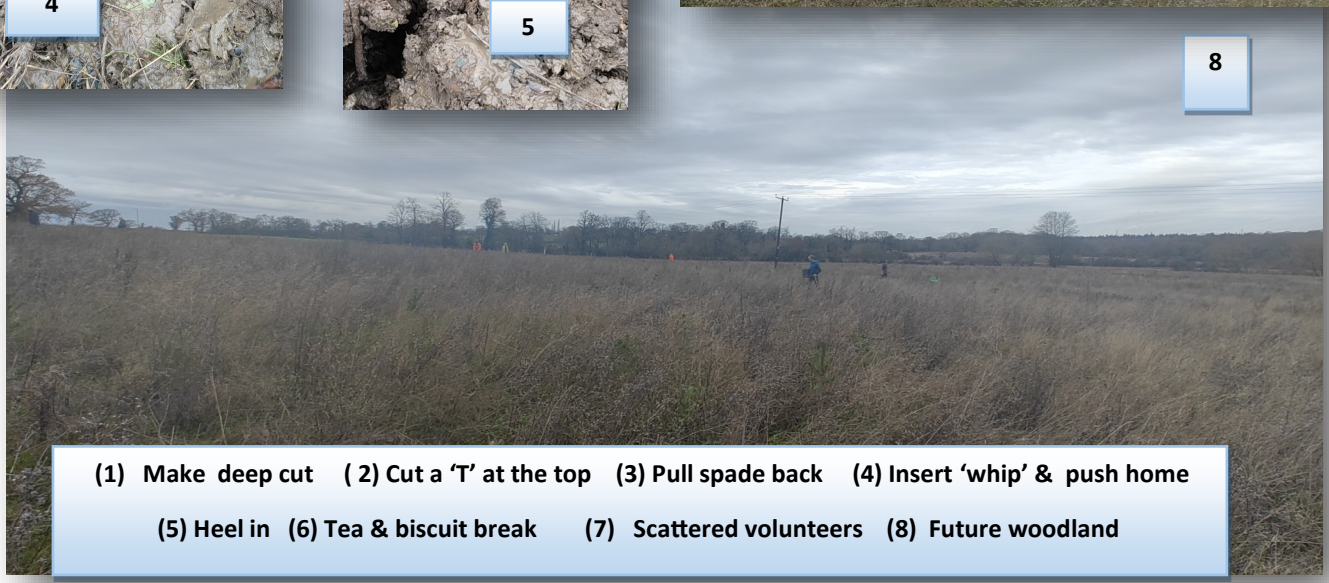
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(1) Make deep cut (2) Cut a 'T' at the top (3) Pull spade back (4) Insert 'whip' & push home

(5) Heel in (6) Tea & biscuit break (7) Scattered volunteers (8) Future woodland

I know there have been hundreds of Groveland's Park photos but I always seem to enjoy the beauty on our doorstep

..and another local picture of something that is also very special to Lynn and myself. Larnie, one of our lovely grandchildren

December 2025

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EDITORIAL

Larnie Hur

Eye on the prize

As we look ahead to 2026, diligence is expanding in scope and, therefore, the bar for what it must reveal is rising.

Investors want a clearer view of how a business behaves in practice – how it treats its customers, how reliable its data is, how well its defences hold up and how adaptable its people are when plans meet reality.

Within proactive technology audits, cyber resilience is gaining clearer definition. Threat exposure, control maturity and third-party dependencies are assessed early, forming part of the evidence base that shapes feasibility and valuation. Read more *on pages 12-13*.

At the same time, organisational behaviour is drawing closer attention. Working habits, communication

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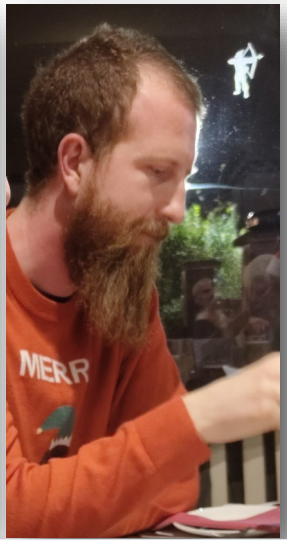
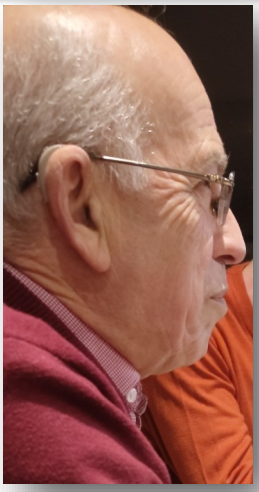
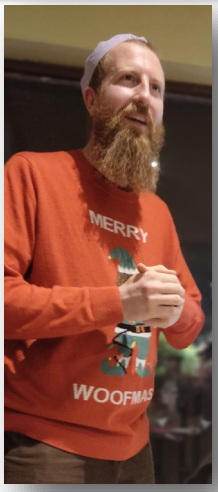
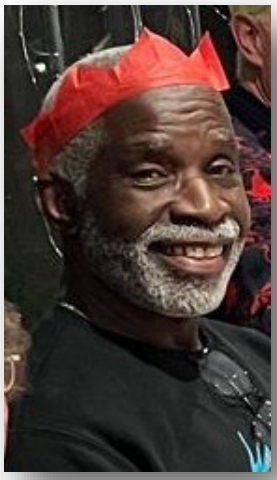
Photo History



After a great year tree planting we all celebrated with a wonderful Christmas meal together at The Robin Hood

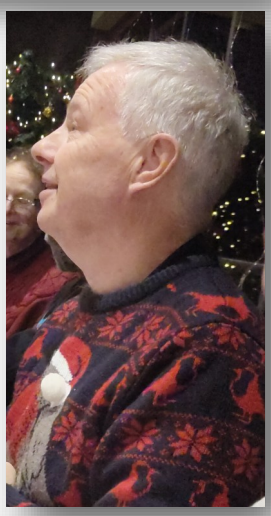






Festive
TIPPLES

DO
YOU
WISH ME
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS



MERRY

Saturday 13th December –Park Run

Waiting for the start

It was a cold day but sunny and 254 runners turned out . It was Lynn's 95th run and she completed it in 43.52 minutes. My 'walk' took longer (57.13 minutes) and was my 81st 'walk' and I came in 253rd

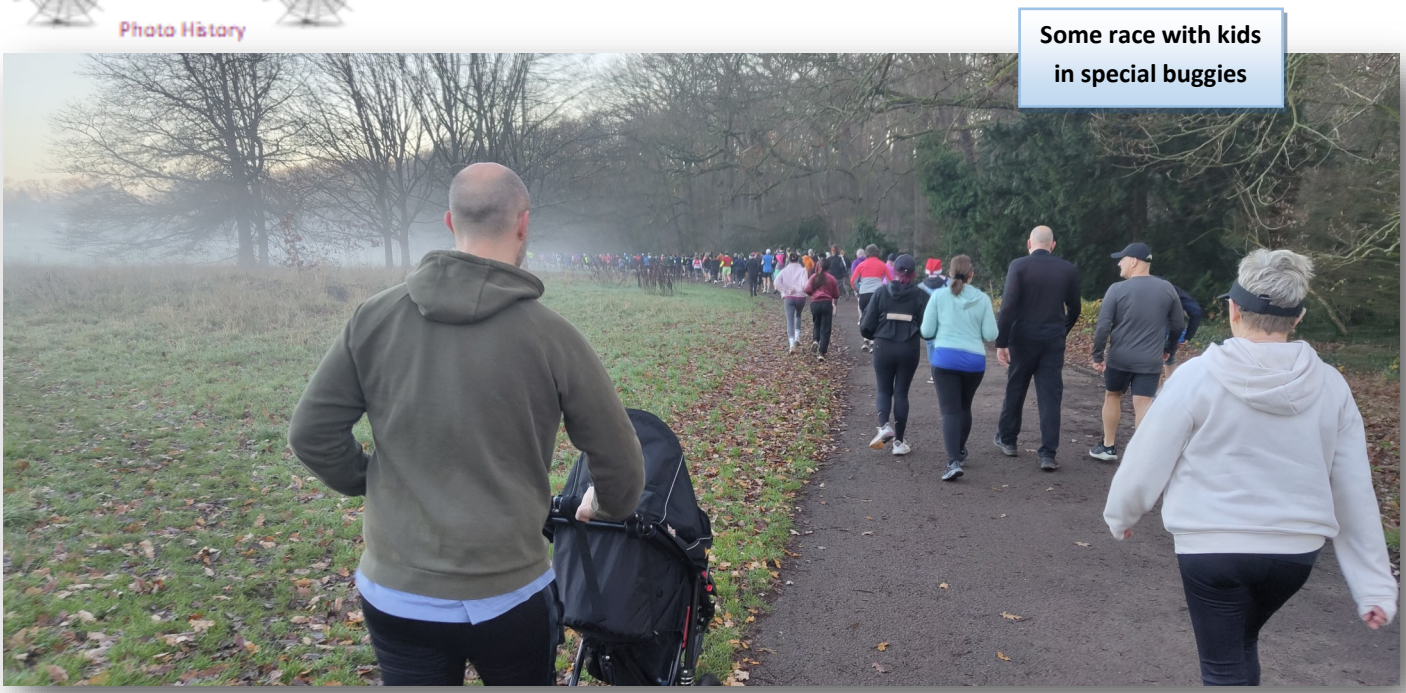
'Off' past the coffee stall

Fast runners already shooting forward

Some folk try to sabotage the run by attempting to push trees over...without success

Limbering up prior to the start

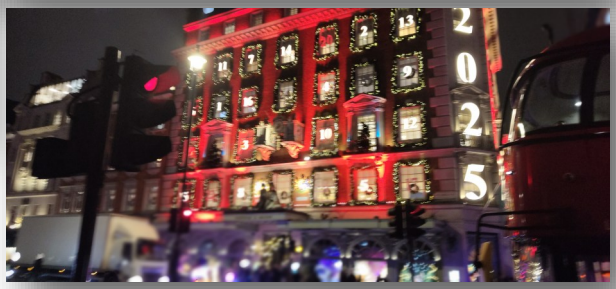
Raquel


Some race with kids
in special buggies

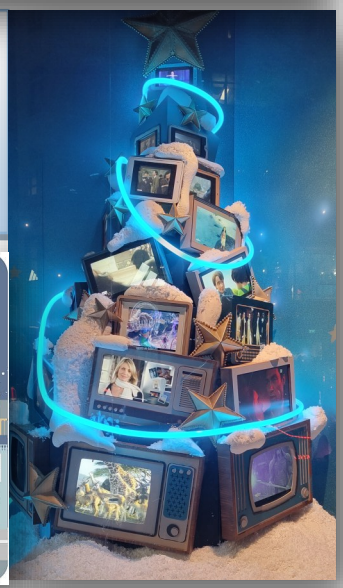
Many have their dogs
accompanying them

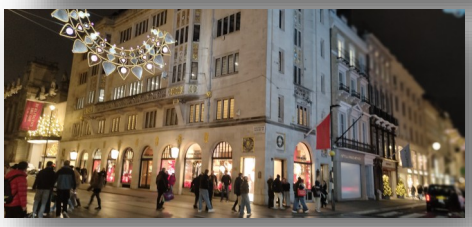
The line extends well into the misty
area by the stream

Most of the runners are so intent on beating their 'personal best' that they are unaware of how beautiful the park looks on this sunny day



Every Year Lynn and I go 'up town' to enjoy the Christmas decorations, and shop window displays . It was very crowded as expected





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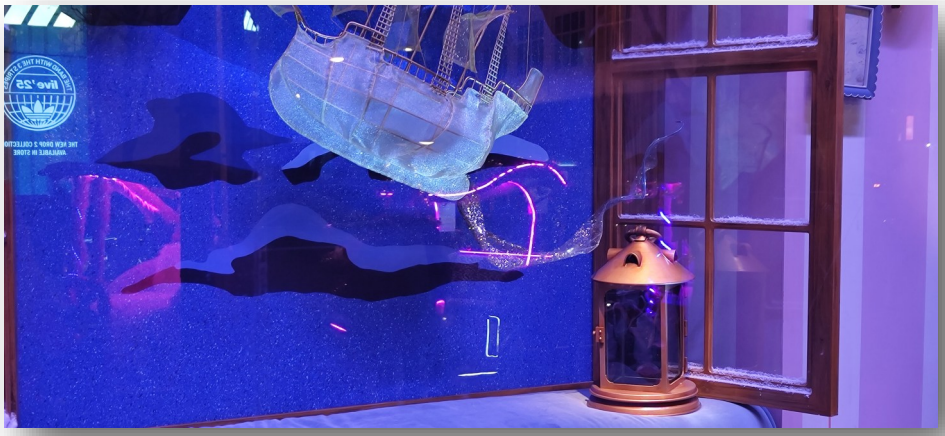
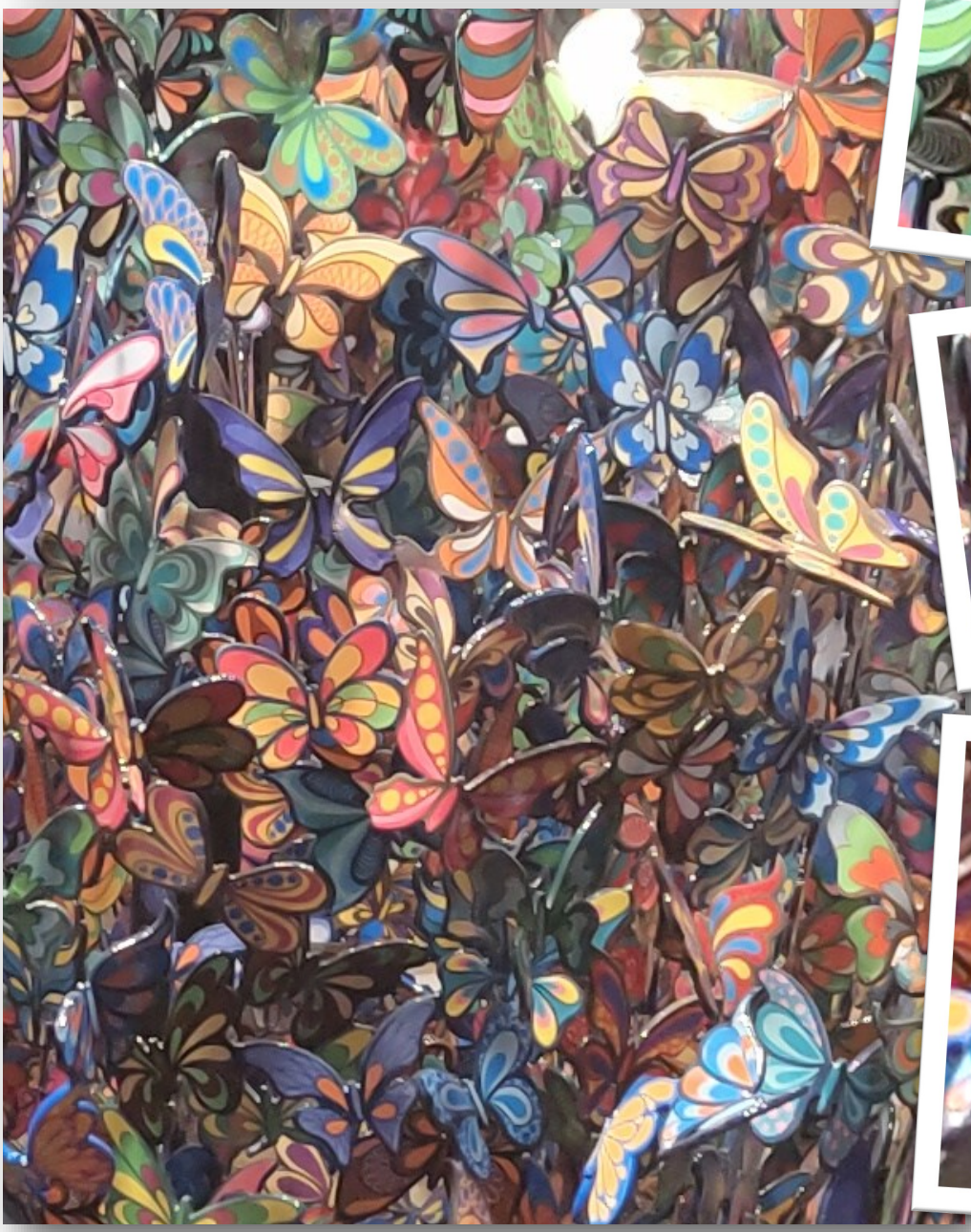
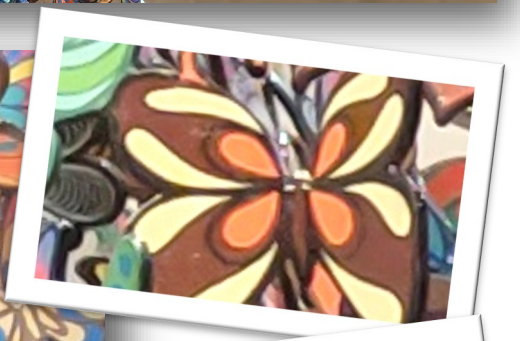
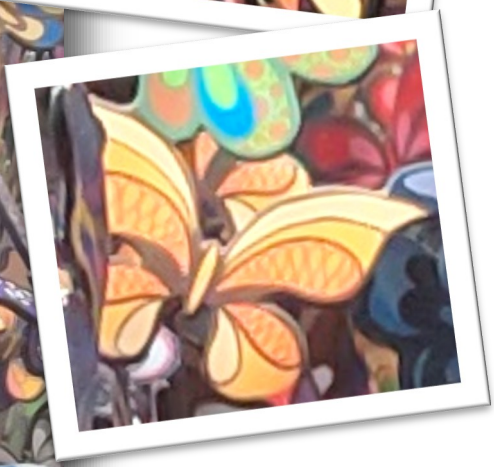
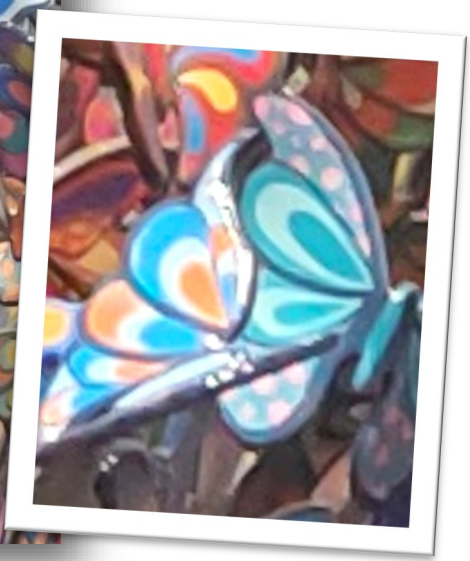


GRAFF
CHANEL
MOUSSAIEFF









It is a fact that when I scroll through my Volumes the pictures and text are nearly always very optimistic but being very honest, and what better medium to be honest are my volumes, maybe I can voice my fears here. It is now acknowledged everywhere that antisemitism is on the increase and many assimilated Jewish families like ours are very concerned.

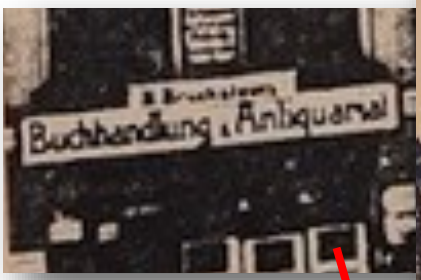
The outrages in Manchester, Boni Beach etc show the hatred within some people for Jewish people. Gaza and 'Jews run the country' are voiced as just some of the reasons for this hatred but any thinking person can see the obvious faults with these arguments. Gaza could be helped by all the Arab countries round it , but they are noticeably quiet. Many of us don't agree with what went on there but are the Hammas still there? yes and will continue to hide amongst the civilian population. There are so many countries like Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, DR Congo, and Somalia that are not receiving world-wide attention….one wonders why. Possibly another myth that should be debunked is the 'often quoted' world dominance by Jews. In the UK there are reportedly (in the 2021 census) around 3.9 million (6.5%),-UK Muslim population while the Jewish population was approx. 271,000 (0.5%) .

I was is born here (in Oxford) and my mother and father escaped from persecution respectively in Danzig (now Gdansk) and Godesburg (now Bonn, in Germany). They became naturalised citizens in 1947 They both came from loving families with respected businesses in their own communities. (see the pictures below) However when it came to the crunch they were hounded out losing everything. My mothers parents somehow managed to flee to Palestine, as it was then, enduring a long traumatic journey. My father's parents were sent to Theresienstadt where they were murdered. He joined the British Army in intelligence and just received a Red Cross notification of their death. I will not dwell on any of this other than to explain how we feel to anyone who has never experienced the insecurity of the status quo changing and apparent friends turning their backs on one and having to flee from our home to somewhere else. My home is here, our friends of every denomination are here so why should we be worried. History seems to be repeating itself and I heard my father saying that his father felt safe and repeated that he was safe as he had even fought for the Kaiser

The Kauffman butchery shop (Dad's family) as it was in (approx.)

Dad with Lynn and myself at the original family shop approx. 100 years later

Bruckstein . Mum's family Antiques and Fine Art shop in Langgasse Gdansk

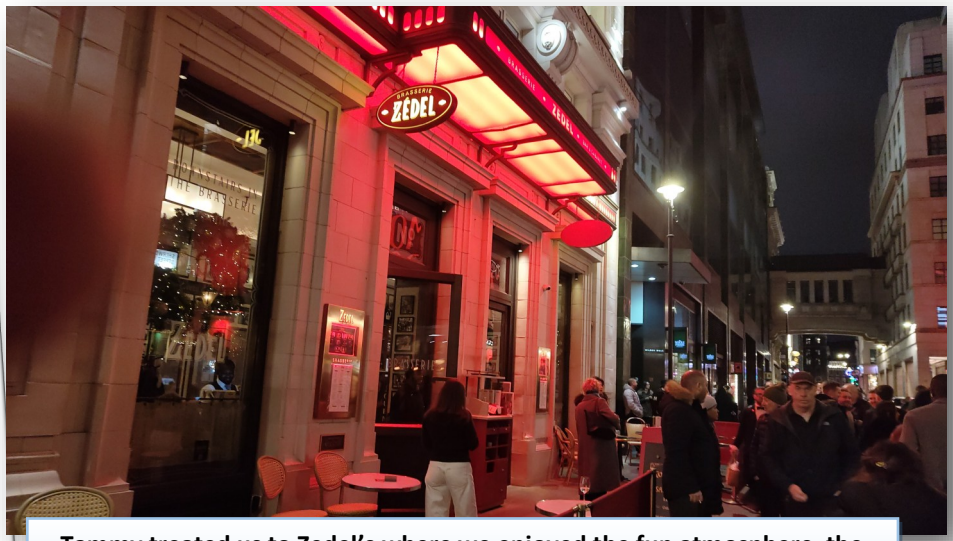


Lynn and I , and our family feel 'grounded' here but we are sure our late families also felt the same, being long established respected citizens of both countries.

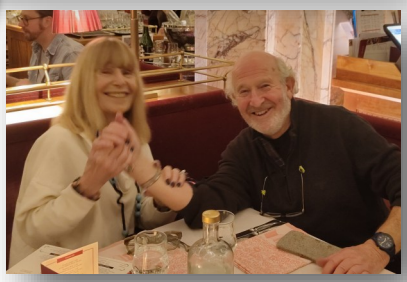
I won't dwell on the current situation but possibly this short explanation will show how uncertain we feel..and it's like always having to look over ones' shoulders

In 2005

It is not in my nature to be miserable so I will continue my volumes on a more positive note….sorry about the previous two pages…but I guess it had to be said



Tammy treated us to Zedel's where we enjoyed the fun atmosphere, the food and the service. It was a wonderful , thoughtful and enjoyable Xmas gift



...some great times just before Xmas 2025. DP came down for a brief visit

AI did a 'softened' caricature of them

Dan, Larnie. Tammy, Lynn and myself with my lovely mug (no comments please!) and one of Tam's home-made bags

DP bought us this wonderful unusual picture and helped put it up on the wall

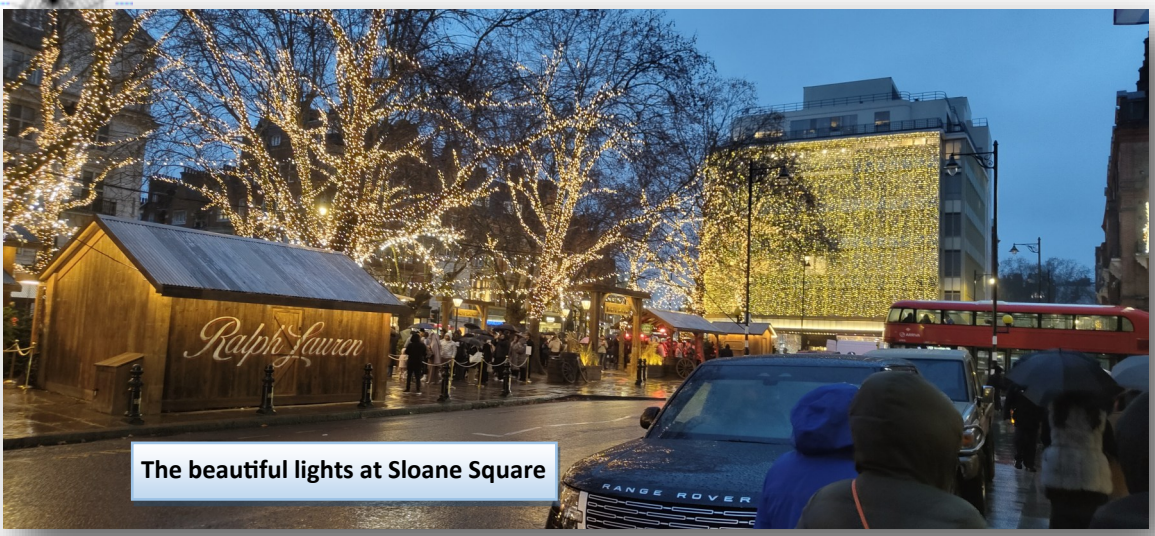
The great hat that Tammy bought for Lynn

'Behind the Scenes'..binding one of my many volumes

Our good friend Lynn is working hard getting her new home in The Lake District ready

A wonderful gathering at Penny & Barry's where we were welcomed as 'family'

Down for the Count at Cadogan Hall was a great treat. Ivor arranged the tickets and we all enjoyed a meal at Cote in Sloane Square after the show.



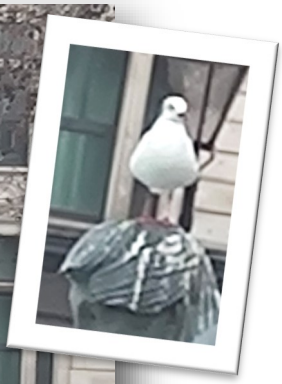
The beautiful lights at Sloane Square

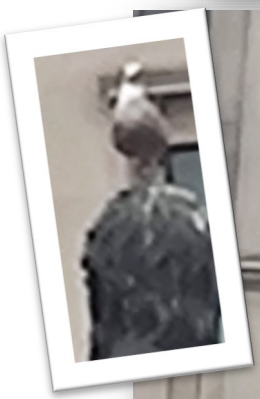
This was a Christmas spectacular . Down for the Count's 30-piece big band with strings is one of the largest swing bands currently touring the UK. Directed by conductor and compère Mike Paul-Smith and featured some of the UK's top vocalists and instrumentalists, the Orchestra recreated the sounds of Nat 'King' Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday in wonderful engaging performance

We couldn't find a tame red-nosed reindeer this Christmas but we chanced on a ginger horse

Aldwych Station (formerly Strand)

- **Opened: 1907, as a terminus for a Piccadilly Line shuttle to Holborn.**
- **Name Change: Renamed Aldwych in 1915 to avoid confusion with the nearby Charing Cross station, also known as Strand.**
- **Usage: Never very busy, it closed to the public in 1994 but was used as an air-raid shelter in WWII and for filming (e.g., *V for Vendetta*, *Sherlock*).**

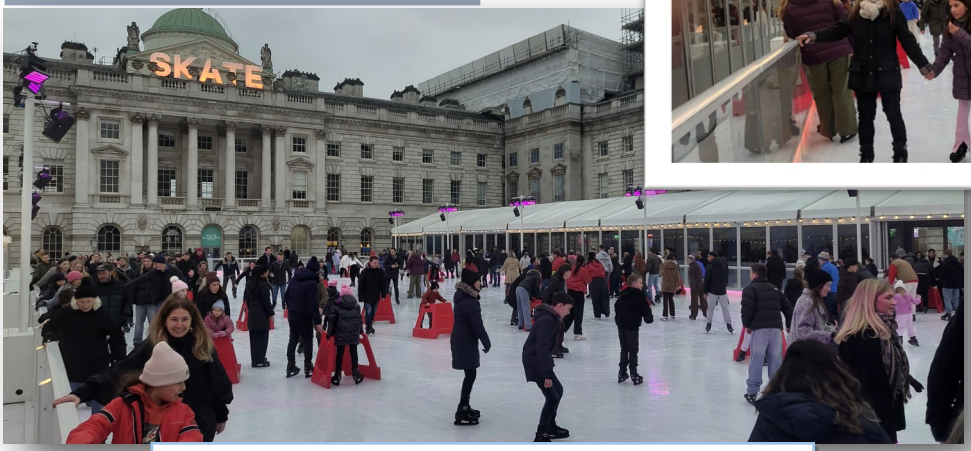




Sometimes the pigeon's have the best vantage points

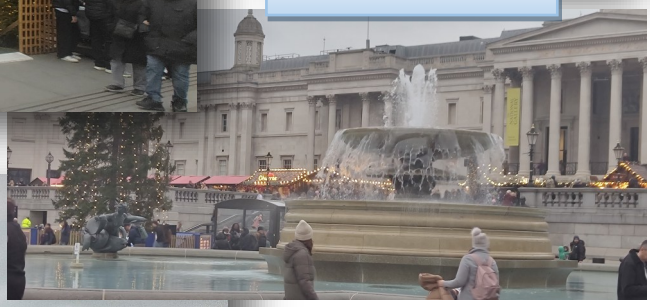
Traditionally, Lynn and I walk around London prior to Christmas. This year (on the 2rd December) it was very quiet, except in the well-known Christmas markets areas etc. We walked from Holborn Station down the Kingsway into Somerset House and enjoyed watching the crowds skating there. Then across Blackfriars Bridge to The South Bank but the Christmas market there was pretty terrible with bars with overpriced fast foods that were nowhere as good as their glowing description .

'SKATE' Somerset House



. ..We then crossed over Charing Cross bridge, enjoyed coffee and cakes in a newly opened donut house.

Trafalgar Square

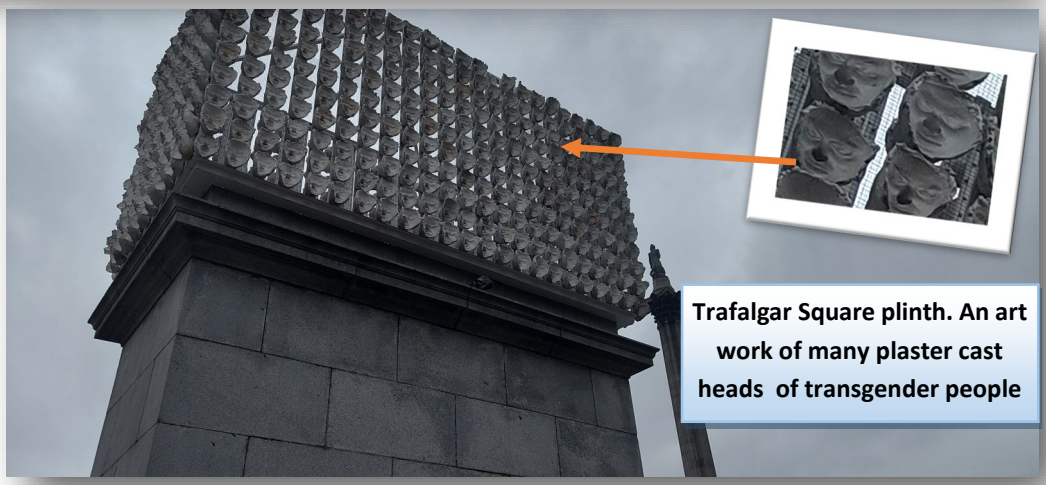


Then we found Trafalgar Square Christmas Market buzzing and crowded.

Trafalgar Square

Steaming, appetizing salt beef, turkey and pork

Overpriced and pretty naff ...but it 'hit the spot'



Trafalgar Square plinth. An art work of many plaster cast heads of transgender people

After enjoying Trafalgar Square, we walked on to Leicester Square with another popular Ice Skating rink (We were aware of pretty tight security here) .

Marshmallow toasting

Around Leicester Square

THE SAUSAGE MAN
Bratwurst
Krakauer
Käsewurst
Chilli Beef

FATHER CHRISTMAS'S GROTTO
AT CHISWICK HOUSE
29 NOV – 24 DEC
'JAW DROPPING SPECTACLE'
underbelly
NOW SHOWING

BAILEYS

Then a fast tube home and more boxes ticked

Well, almost the end of 2025 and I thought a few random shots could be included on these last 8 pages. It's been a reflective year for Lynn and myself. We both are enjoying and appreciating our home and family life more than ever . Yes, we still love travel but , as I have previously written, the hassle of airports, massive security, long haul flights are now serious reasons for contemplating UK walks and 'staycations'. The garden has taken over my allotment duties and I really can turn off when gardening . Slowly, having 'hoarded' so much over a long life we both realise that our family will not know where to start when we depart. So we are 'tring' to clear much of it away (not an easy task!) This is rational thinking, not a bit morbid. We are quite ok with realizing that we are so fortunate in having reached such a good age in comparative good health but that things may change rapidly. This thought is reinforced by so many friends being ill in one way or another and we appreciate our current lives more than ever. Anyway, enough said. These volumes are a great therapy for me as I can spill out my thoughts without paying for therapists (and Lynn and I honestly think that many therapists have far more personal problems than their clients) Finally, I heard a long radio discussion yesterday regarding tackling Alzheimer's and how it was thought that this could be eradicated very soon. Having seen its devastating effects on both sets of parents and friends too we are very cognisant of the devastating effect it has on the caring parties.. Sorry, I want to end on a cheerful note , and just to say that 2025, despite world major problems has been a good year for many including us and I hope the Volumes exhibit this meaningfully .. Dec 27th 2025

New York Yankees v Baltimore Oriels in 2025

Baltimore Harbour in 2025

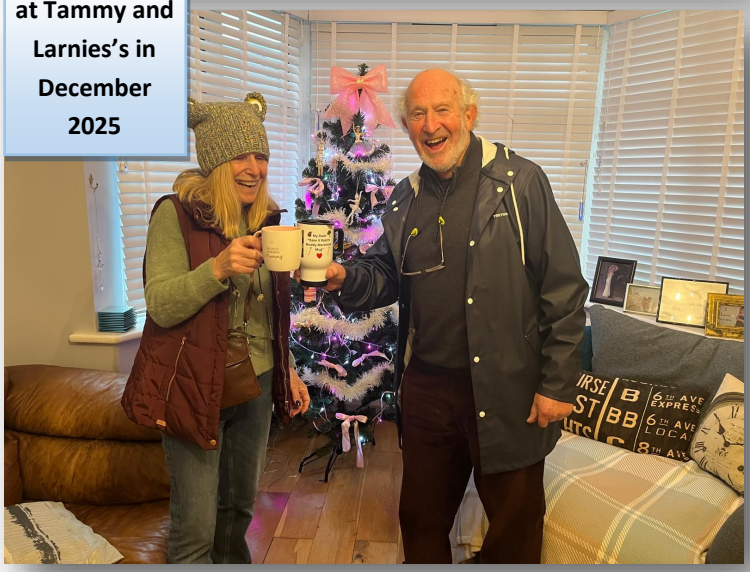
My beautiful wife at Xmas 2025

Tree planting on The Enfield Chase 2025

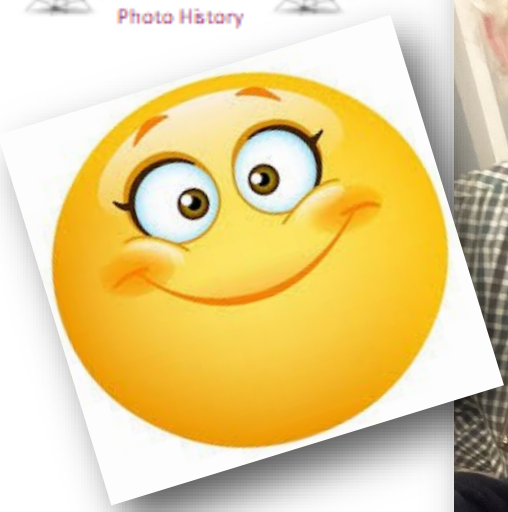
Our first meeting with the lovely Ottie in 2025

Michell and Adam joined us for the Park Run

Hot chocolate at Tammy and Larnies's in December 2025



Impossible to find a photo of Tammy & Larnie when they are not laughing



The smiles say it all...

No reason other than we had to stop , reverse and get this shot of this fantastic old barn. There will never be old dilapidated buildings around in the future so I feel it so important to photograph them just as they are

The Good Old
Rocking Horse

BATTLESHIP

FORGET SOMETHING?

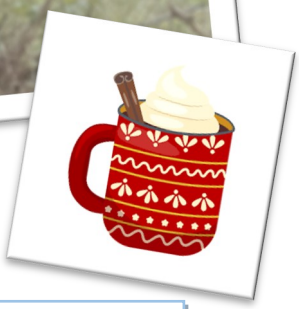
Tammy and The Larn

Never happier than when we're together

I really must check how many years we have completed this ritual. The long drive to Cold Christmas

On with our 'Santa' hats

Remembering the year we came here only to find some-one had taken the sign!



Ho chocolate from our flask. overlooking the beautiful valley, and then home for our turkey lunch

I know we are old and things seem 'out of proportion' expensive, but sending just a few Xmas cards this year brought it home how expensive our Royal Mail postage is now. Deliveries and post box collections are now far less than 'in our day'. Many recent increases plus the option of using the immediate messages on Whatsapp, and all the other emails and on line have seen a massive dwindling of posted cards now. We will definitely not see this service surviving and Post Offices also are on the wane. So many courier services offer a competitive service and this is, in my opinion, the death knell.

Denmark is the first country to end its nationwide state-run letter mail service, with the final letters delivered by the state postal service PostNord on December 30, 2025.

This decision marks the end of a 400-year-old service and is driven by a massive shift to digital communication

Card from Tammy 31 years ago!!

Sketches from my late father

One of my long-forgotten word pictures

Poolside Conjecture

The guilt of preconception is jointly shared

The guilt of stereotyping, the guilt of pre-judgement

Two sweet old ladies voluminous bags clutched securely close

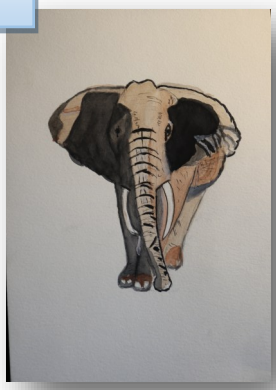
Retired, enjoying the fruits of meagre savings earned from years of company book-keeping in offices ignored by generations of inconsequential chattering mindless children

Swarthy young man with fractious baby boy in carry cot accompanied by father with hirsute torso sporting fashionable watc and jewellery huddle close to plan which evening restaurant to grac with their presence

Bikini-clad threesome only moving on their loungers to adjust body to sun positions. Sadly ticking off the days prior to their imminent return to the endless repetitious demands of flickering computer screens

The enigmatic fascinating solitude of the tanned attractive girl with swept-back hair, perfect complexion and soberly coloured swimwe un-spokenly challenging any daring attempt at converstion

Another of Dad's sketches



...and lastly...but NOT leastly..a couple of wonderful artistic creations from Angela